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Detroit, Mich.



WEEKLY BULLETIN

MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

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Harry L. Mead, 2nd Vice-President
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N. Chester Sorensen

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Vol. 8

DETROIT, MICH., MARCH 6th, 1934

No. 10

TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Clair W. Ditchy was elected president of the Michigan Society of Architects at its Twentieth Annual Convention held in Detroit on February 23rd and 24th.

Other officers included Emil Lorch, 1st Vice-President; Harry L. Mead, 2nd Vice-President; William D. Cuthbert, 3rd Vice-President; Frank H. Wright, Secretary; Andrew R. Morison, Treasurer; Talmage C. Hughes, Executive Secretary.

Directors elected are as follows: Wells I. Bennett, Frank Eurich, Walter E. Lentz, Amedeo Leone, William G. Malcomson, Richard Marr, H. Augustus O'Dell, N. Chester Sorensen.

The Convention opened Friday afternoon with the officers and directors as hosts. A smoker and entertainment followed in the evening.

The first business session was opened by president O'Dell Saturday morning. In his address the president drew a parallel to the Society and a well built building, which weathers a storm.

A resolution passed had to do with the Detroit Board of Education and requested the board to discontinue its own architectural department and to make use of established architectural firms.

It was further resolved that since many states are soliciting Federal aid to expand their institutional buildings, and since there is a wide divergence

many things we should know about planning and especially City planning.

Mr. Walter Gehrke spoke on the newly formed First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Detroit of which he is Executive Vice-President. He told of building money now available to responsible home builders.

Edwin J. Brunner, Secretary of the Builders' and Traders' Exchange of Detroit spoke on "Where are we going." The first thing to determine, according to Mr. Brunner is, where have we been?

Mr. Louis H. Charboneau, past president of the Detroit Mortgage Bankers Association told of good and bad mortgages.

Clair W. Ditchy, who needed no introduction was presented to the meeting by retiring president O'Dell.

Mr. Ditchy gave a most instructive talk on Federal aid to finance construction and showed that architects do more than furnish blue prints.

Herbert Wenzell and Wirt Rowland put on one of their shows just to show that we don't always agree among ourselves. Their discussion related to old materials against new. Herb took the former and our "prima donna" of course took the new.

Retiring president O'Dell made a few touching remarks bearing on the satisfaction he had received while acting as our executive officer and graciously turned the gavel over to our new president, Mr. Ditchy, who in a few choice words moved for a vote of thanks to our retiring president for his untiring efforts.

The Banquet, as the concluding event was held at 7:30 P. M. at which our new president Mr. Ditchy introduced Mr. H. J. Maxwell Grylls, the toastmaster. In the style for which he is famous Mr. Grylls did an excellent job. He introduced Mr. John L. Lovett, secretary of the Michigan Manufacturers' Association as the speaker of the evening. Mr. Lovett spoke on the trend of the times in a most interesting manner. An open discussion followed. The Twentieth Annual Convention came

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Architects' Luncheon

32nd Floor, Union Guardian Building
Private Dining Room
Southwest Vista

Tuesday, March 6th, 12:30 p. m.

in the costs of such buildings, the Federal Government be urged not to loan funds on such construction unless the conditions of organization and personnel be such as to insure the economical and wise expenditure of funds.

Another resolution pointed out to Governor Comstock the importance of the State building program and urged immediate action.

Bill Cuthbert and Wells Bennett told about the Ann Arbor Society of Architects and the publicity they have received.

The Producers Council Club of Michigan and others in the building industry who helped to make the convention a success were offered resolution of thanks.

At a luncheon on Saturday Professor Lorch spoke on architectural education and registration, emphasizing the importance of raising the standard.

At the Saturday afternoon session Mr. G. Frank Corder introduced Mr. Walter Blucher, secretary of the Detroit City Plan Commission who told of

BUILDERS' AND TRADERS' EXCHANGE OF DETROIT

Edwin Kriehoff, President; Mason P. Rumney, Vice-President; Albert F. Pudrith, Treasurer; Edwin J. Brunner, Secretary;
Directors:—Fred Anderson, Albert Beever, Roy Boomer, Claude Fier, Walter Trowell, Edward Schroeder.

439 Penobscot Bldg., RANDOLPH 5500

Edited By E. J. BRUNNER

Feet on the Ground—Heads Up

Anyone who says business conditions are better in countries not having NRA than they are in the United States, and who directly implies that NRA is the cause is simply all wet or is trying to throw water misleadingly to make other people wet.

Take France and you find a constantly diminishing security on the part of the rural peoples and the working classes. Take Italy and you run into what some would call a super NRA and the only reason why I do not call it that is because our NRA is not destined to lead to such absolute control as there is in Italy unless through certain interests pulling back on the halter too hard drive our government from its present form into something approaching Fascism. Take England and you have an intolerable taxation to keep up the dole and to pay part at least of the long time debt charges. How would you like to pay 25 per cent income tax besides all other taxes? By the way, England performed its operation on its gold a long time before we did. Perhaps if ours had been performed earlier, we might have not experienced the summer lag. Take Russia and Germany and Austria—how does it compare? As a matter of fact if you want to compare countries which are experiencing booms, you must go over to China. In some parts of that big country and in Manchuku you will find booms, but do you like the economic basis of their living as well as you do ours? We are the United States, and it will pay us to keep our feet on the ground and our heads up.

There are astounding forces of change at work not only in the United States but all over the world. Whether we like it or not, we are entering a new era.

There will be things done which are not right. The President of the United States with candor admits that. That admission might well have been made by even a president who was sailing along in old ruts barring as best he could the entrance into the picture of economic forces of change.

Those who cling to the idea that deflation should have been carried still farther—that we should have cut to the bone, seemingly do not consider that the next bone to be reached was life insurance companies and all other backing bulwarks of our very financial being.

In February 1933 we had come to a point in our deflation where our banks were closed and where life insurance companies had by legislative approval abrogated each and every one of their millions of

contracts which said they would loan certain amounts of money on policies, the amounts and terms being written in black and white in the policies themselves.

We had been deflated so that millions of men both white collar and blue shirts were living on relief. We had been deflated so that building activity had largely disappeared and real estate could not be sold. A continued policy of deflation beginning as of March 4, 1933 would have been disastrous. The Roosevelt policies immediately halted the deflation of hopes and business began to turn wheels.

The purpose of the NRA was to decrease working hours and to bolster up pay to the end that there would be purchasing power and less unemployment, and hooked on to this was \$3,300,000,000 PWA money to help prime the pump.

So far as we in Michigan are concerned, we got some of the priming money for roads, a measly amount for PWA construction, and probably our full share of CWA money; and so far as we of the construction industry are concerned, we have a code for most every supplying branch of the industry, and a Code of Fair Competition for the contractual part of the industry with one chapter, the general contractors, being accepted at this time.

But it is not so much what we have gotten that counts as what are we going to do.

The codes are imperfect. Are we going to try to put them into the discard or are we going to try to have them made more perfect and try to enforce them? In plain words do we in construction really want to continue cutthroat competition and compete with those who will pay labor only fifteen cents an hour or do we really want to help perfect a machinery designed to rid us of such competition? Which course do you think will help your chances for business? Is the standpatter right who says we must lower wages still farther in order to build up capital goods or is the progressive right who says that in order to run our efficient machinery of mass production, we must work men shorter hours and give them enough pay so that instead of hanging near to the starvation line they can buy the products of the mass machines? The answer is important to the construction industry. As it is important, so are the codes important, because it has long since been proved that men in industry cannot organize without outside help to enforce such things. Now with a partnership of government is it not worth trying?

CLASSIFIED BUILDING TRADES

General Contractors

MORRICK BROTHERS, Inc., 1254 Michigan Theatre Bldg. RANDOLPH 2934.

Carpenter Contractors

TRIANGLE CONSTRUCTION CO., Inc., 2923 Monterey Ave. LONGFELLOW 1713.

Painting & Decorating

OSWALD LEITERT, 439 Penobscot Bldg. RANDOLPH 5500.

Heating Alterations & Repairs

FLAT RATE PLUMBING & HEATING CO., 317 Kreske Bldg., EUCLID 0036.

Lumber & Millwork

DETROIT LUMBER CO., Main Office: 5601 W. Jefferson. VINWOOD 1-2090.

GRACE HARBOR LUMBER CO.—Four Yards. HOGARTH 4913.

HURD LUMBER CO., 6425 W. Vernor Highway. VINWOOD 1-4120.

RESTRICK LUMBER CO., 1008 W. Grand Blvd. LAFAYETTE 0500.

Rubber Mats & Rubber Specialties

DAVID C. BROWN CO., Marquette Bldg., Detroit. RA. 4224. 31 Milton Ct., Battle Creek.

General Floor Contractors

ALBERT GRAUER & CO., 1408-24 Beron-tenth St., LAFAYETTE 1950.

Asbestos NU-WAY Insulation

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Insurance & Surety Bonds

KELLY, HALLA, PEACOCK, Inc., 331 Buhl Bldg. RANDOLPH 0126.

Waterproofing Contractors

THE LOVETT ENGINEERING CO., 2881 E. Grand Blvd. MADISON 4456.

There's Still Time

To Pay Your ★Back Taxes & Save Most of the Interest & Penalties!!

BACK TAXES on more than 100,000 pieces of Detroit property were paid in the recent drive, during which all interest charges and penalties were waived.

NOW—UNTIL APRIL 10th—you can pay your ★Back Taxes with only the first year's penalty, and get a discount of five per cent (5%).

OR, IF YOU Prefer, you need pay only one-twentieth of the amount, and then you can take SEVEN YEARS TO PAY UP in convenient semi-annual installments, with interest at five per cent (5%) per annum on deferred balances. On this plan interest and penalties are substantially reduced.

Sincerely yours,



City Treasurer



★
1933 Taxes
are NOT
included!

NEW PLUMBING CODE PROPOSED

Commissioner Wolff of the Department of Buildings and Safety Engineering has been authorized by the Common Council of the City of Detroit to prepare a new Plumbing Code for the City.

Detroit's present Plumbing Code is one of many in the state which sets up its own regulations for licensing of plumbers. The result has been that a master plumber operating in, say Metropolitan Detroit, had to be examined and pay fees to many municipalities.

At the recent session of the state legislature there was passed an amendment to the state act setting up a state-wide examination that will apply to all municipalities. However, this act provides for home rule in that it gives a city the right to pass its own ordinance, or the jurisdiction may be with the State Board of Health.

It is expected that Commissioner Wolff will form a code committee of representative interests and formulate a new code to submit to the council.

MR. STEKETEE, THE PISTOL AND THE PORTER

Chris Steketee, well known local architect, is this week celebrating the 22nd anniversary of his arrival in this country from The Netherlands, and has been entertaining his friends with a description of the excitement attendant upon his first landing in this land of the more or less free and the home of the brave.

"I naturally expected to be greeted by Indians and forced to protect myself against savages of all colors," says Chris, "as a result of listening to the stories of returned travelers who, I later found, must have exaggerated just a trifle. My family had insisted upon providing me with a large pistol so that I might defend myself against the redskins.

"We landed at Hoboken and, of course, as the passengers disembarked from the liner a flock of red capped porters grabbed their hand luggage to escort them to taxis. This was new to me, and when a colored man seized my hand bag I took it for an audacious attempt to steal my baggage. So I pulled out the pistol, pointed it at the red cap and ordered him in fluent Dutch to drop the bag. He didn't understand the Dutch, but the pistol was unmistakable. He dropped the bag and got off the pier in about two leaps. When my fellow passengers recovered from their hilarity and explained matters to me I decided that thereafter I would wait a few moments before unlimbering the artillery."

Roger Allen, Grand Rapids Chronicle

DUMB-BELL LETTER

(From The Detroit Times)

OFFICE OF G. L. KAUFMAN, ARCHITECT.

My dear Sir:

I am a young man of good habits who can draw well and want to be an architect. I studied under my Father who is a Carpenter.

I am sober and honest and keep away from Women besides I am too young for a real Affair. I am married to my Art alone and faithful.

I wonder if you've an opening where I can adapt myself. I think architects are wonderful, so educated and all but I know that only comes with time and piety.

Respectfully yours,
ABE L.



Extra Long Box-Mattressed Beds

Tall people rest comfortably at Hotel Fort Shelby, for 100 of its 900 rooms and suites are equipped with box-mattressed beds, eight feet in length. All rooms with private bath—circulating ice water and tip-eliminating servidors.

Rooms \$2 to \$10.

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President

"AGLOW WITH FRIENDLINESS"
DETROIT

The answer is important to the construction industry, because the industry is being disorganized steadily. If the standpatter is right or if he makes his might right, we can not expect further building until we have run through still more deflation. Under his theory construction costs will have to go far below what they are now, and then he says that big business will do its stuff on capital goods production which is buildings, heavy machinery, etc. Just how it will be led to do this with no consumer market in sight they do not explain, but that is the picture they hold forth.

The way it looks now, it would be better if all could forget politics and get down to business on improving business conditions. In fact about the surest way to lose a right or custom which we hold dear is to balk all efforts to improve it even though we disagree with some of the improvements. There is no one owns this country—not even the labor unions, and through the logical development of the principle of NRA the bad features of unions will presently be controlled.

TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1)

to an official close, but many of the delegates viewed again the Exhibits of the Producers and others in the building industry who helped so much to make our convention a success.

It is worthy of mention that Peter Hulsken of Lima, Ohio, our only Foreign Delegate was again present maintaining his record of never missing one of the events since before prohibition.

Frank Wright deserves special credit for being on the job every minute and not only doing his job well but also pinch hitting for the editor who was present but incapacitated by a cold. Frank, we thank you.

THE FUTURE OF THE BATH TUB, or, LOVE WILL FIND A WAY

A Scientific Inquiry, Complete With Foot Notes

Repeal has brought many problems in its train. (1) and not the least of them is this: What Shall We Do With Our Bath Tubs? All over the United States brother is asking brother (some brothers ask their sisters-in-law, which merely leads to broken homes) "What Shall We Do With Our Bath Tubs?"

Nobody knows the answer.

Now that legal gin is again obtainable, the bath tub stands alone and deserted. No longer does the busy architect (2) rush madly home after a hard day at the office to dash into the bath room and mix up a mess of Old Tug Boat Gin, guaranteed to heat up the bridgework to 87.6 degrees Centigrade, utilizing the bath tub as a mixing bowl. Now that the state liquor stores have taken over the task of supplying the citizenry with their rations of Old Superior Smooth Tiger Sweat, \$1.10 (fifths), the bath tub is no longer the center of attraction at any little gathering. The neighbors no longer peer over the edge of it to see how the mess is making out with its job of peeling the enamel off the bottom, and to call the old master's attention to the fact that the faucets have been dissolved, adding a slightly exotic taste to the completed product. Those days have gone forever (3) and now we are face to face with a situation where we find American bathroom full of unusable bath tubs.

We face a condition and not a theory, as the brave boys in blue sang on the Bonhomme Richard as the little tank made its first successful attack on the Chinese positions at Kittyhawk, flying over the

enemy lines and bringing back information of vital import to the Paraguayan army.

I seem to hear a voice with a Hamtramck accent saying that in the old days people used to take baths in bath tubs. It will be clearly impossible to revive this quaint custom, as most of us got a cleaning in 1929 and the subsequent years that will last us a life time.

So what?

My own idea, which I timidly place at the disposal of my country, is that the bath tubs be disconnected, the holes plugged up, and the ex-bath tubs be used as canoes on the river above Niagara Falls, confining their use exclusively to farmers who raise spinach. The spinach raisers could have a lot of fun propelling these graceful crafts hither and thither. There may be some who will object that the converted bath tubs will sink, thus drowning everyone who raises spinach.

That will be all right with me.

—0—

- (1) Train stops only on signal west of Byron Center.
- (2) Busy reading tripe like this.
- (3) We hope.

Roger Allen, Grand Rapids Chronicle

RELATION OF HOUSE TO GARDEN

Prof. Wells Bennett is to give a lecture on "The Relation of the House to the Garden" on March 15th at the Detroit Institute of Arts, sponsored by the Garden Center.

In connection with this lecture, it is the intention to hold an exhibition of photographs and sketches of gardens.

The exhibition committee of the Detroit Chapter A. I. A. will be pleased to receive available material from architects and landscape architects, at the Institute of Arts, not later than March 13th.

Amedeo Leone, Chairman
Randolph 8825

BIRTHDAYS

Louis Kahn, March 5th; H. J. Maxwell Grylls, March 8th; Alvin E. Harley, March 10th; John W. C. Lee, February 10th. Congratulations!

PUNCH AND JUDY THEATRE

KERCHEVAL AT FISHER ROAD NIAGARA 3898

TUESDAY—WEDNESDAY Final Two Days MARCH 6 AND 7
Marion Davies—Bing Crosby in "Going Hollywood"

THURSDAY—FRIDAY—SATURDAY MARCH 8, 9 AND 10
Stan Laurel—Oliver Hardy in their latest feature riot
"Sons Of The Desert"

SUNDAY—MONDAY—TUESDAY MARCH 11, 12 AND 13
Fredric March—Miriam Hopkins in Noel Coward's
"Design For Living"

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ELIMINATING ODORS IN RUBBER

By David C. Brown

The odor of rubber goods has long been an obstacle to the manufacturers of rubber filing and to the manufacturers of moulded materials. Various aromatic chemicals have been tried in the attempt to disguise rubber odors. Among the most important are synthetic oil of wintergreen and synthetic oil of almonds. Neither of these two have been successful, because the aromatic odor faded during vulcanization. Small amounts were used, however, and this may have been the reason for their failure. All articles manufactured from vulcanized rubber possess a disagreeable odor, perceptible even after the articles have been used for months. As the odor is very repugnant to some persons, who will not use rubber for this reason, it becomes a matter of importance to remove this objection, especially for articles intended for domestic use.

In pre-plantation days the odor of vulcanized rubber mainly arose from the putrefactive substances present in African and other of the lower grades of rubber. This disappeared with the general use of Para, or South American rubber, but it is evident that accelerators used today, particularly those containing sulphur, greatly aggravate the unpleasant odor associated with vulcanized rubber. Even rubber vulcanized without organic accelerators and made from crepe or from latex still emits an odor which, altho faint, is noticeable.

A few efforts at odorizing rubber have been made in the past, and it must not be imagined that the use of sandalwood, sassafras, mint wood and other sweet smelling ingredients are unworthy of mention to those who make certain kinds of mechanical rubber, for certain of these ingredients are used to-

day in mechanical mixtures to overcome rubber odors.

It is impossible to purify raw rubber. A start has been made at the latex stage by creaming or filtering combined with sandalwood, etc., which have resulted in a great improvement, entirely free from odor.

Odor-free vulcanized rubber can be secured for any purpose at a small extra cost, but the material benefits compensate for the expenditure.

RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE M.S.A. 20th ANNUAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, The Detroit Board of Education is now maintaining an architectural department for the designing and supervising of School Construction; and

WHEREAS, The maintenance of such department is depriving established architects now idle, of work they are peculiarly fitted and organized to do; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education discontinue the above described practice, act only in an advisory capacity, and employ established architectural firms to design and supervise School Construction.

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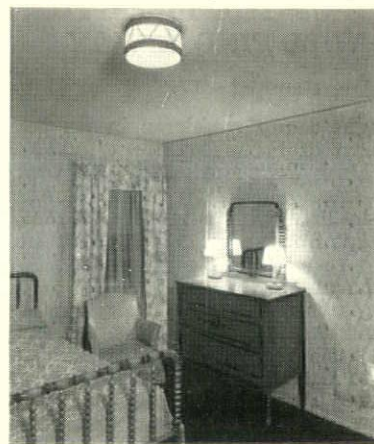


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LIGHTING for the CHILDREN'S ROOM

This quaint lighting plan is featured by the main ceiling fixture with its fanciful patterning after a child's toy drum. Dressing table lamps also follow the child motif with shades depicting nursery characters. Lighting of this sort, specially planned for children's rooms, has a character all its own and is a source of joy to children. (Bedroom from the 1932 Builders' Ideal Home).

The DETROIT EDISON CO.